BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY
Newsletter of the BoSTUG (Sinclair/Timex User Group)
Vol 8 No 1

EDITOR'S NOTES

As reported in these pages our user group membership stabilized at about 160 during 1988.

The current newsletter will go to 162 members throughout North America and to one that just joined from Singapore. Does any other Sinclair group have members in Singapore?

A special welcome, then, to K. G. Goddard.

The bi-monthly user group meeting at U Mass Boston has been sparsely attended. Indeed, the only person to show in February was a non-member who then proceeded to vent about our lack of support for the TS/1000 users.

This is of course a matter discusssed in past issues rather to the point of nausea.

The QL-Group met in January at John Mitchell's in Westwood. The lowlight of the meeting was the failure of Peter Hale's QL in the midst of the demonstrations. Friends will be pleased to know that the QL has been ressurected.

However, before everything blew up several software titles were demonstrated including EMSoft's TRUST_FUND and a first pass at Sherm Waterman's Recipe database program.

The final matter of concern is that this is the last issue that I will be editing. The pressure of writing virtually the whole issue is more than I can take.

I can reconsider if I get some help. And help does not mean just saying what you want to see in the newsletter.

Real help is writing the article and putting it on media that I can load in directly to a QL.

Other computers are not compatible, so 2068 and TS/1000 stuff is OK on Paper or send it by modem.

The Sinclair/Timex Newsletter is the official publication of the Sinclair/Timex User Group of the Boston Computer Society (BoSTUG).

Annual membership for New England residents is $35.00 (otherwise $28.00) per year. Subscription to BCS/Update and one other newsletter is included without cost.

The newsletter has an exchange policy with Sinclair/Timex User groups willing to reciprocate. Please forward exchange issues to Joyce Blaho, 971 Fellsway, Medford, MA 02155.

Unless copywritten by the author, articles are in the public domain. Attribution is requested.

MEETING NOTES

There will be no April or May meetings of the BoSTUG. The April general meeting has been canceled and the May QL Sub-group meeting will be in Washington, DC at the CATS CapitolFest the weekend of May 5 to 7, 1989.

If you wish to attend the CATS CapitolFest, see the promotional material elsewhere in this newsletter.

For shared rides, please call Peter Hale, 889-0830.

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BBS REPORT

Jim Rodlin, sysop of the BCS TIMEWARP bulletin board supported by our user group, reports that the board will be back full time by the end of March and it may be the first 1200 baud Sinclair bulletin board in the world.

For the past six months Timewarp has been on-gain,off-gain with hardware problems relating to the upgrade to 1200 baud.

There may be one of two teething problems still remaining, but you can access the board at 4 times the former speed, a real boon if the call is long distance.

300 baud will still work, but if your modem and terminal software will handle 1200 baud so can the bulletin board.

BCS Timewarp is at 1-508-481-0555

AMSTRAD TAKES HUMBLING TURN FOR ALAN SUGAR

On February 15, 1989, The Wall Street Journal reported that Amstrad PLC, the company that manufactures the Amstrad line of computers and owns, but has refused to license, the rights to the QDOS operating system, had a stunning 16% plunge in pre-tax proifts.

While some of the loss was reasonably attributed to supply and technical problems and the world shortage of memory chips, the Journal's article suggested that part of the problem was Alan Sugars's propensity for risk taking. The unspoken conclusion was risk big, lose big.

If you are thinking of moving to an Amstrad, check out where the parts will come from if Alan has been reading the Leading Edge Corporate manual.

VERY RECOMMENDED READING

Remember when you were younger, but not so young that you didn't need to have an excuse to read Playboy?

How did that excuse go? "I only get it for the articles and the fiction." (Of course, any glancing at the photographs was purely unintentional and only necessary to find out where the article was continued.)

Now you can tell you wife/mother/girl friend that you need to buy the April issue to drool over a picture, specifically the one on page 172.

What you are looking for is arguably the best picture yet of the sexy, black Z88. You need to buy the magazine to find out where to reach Cambridge North America (or so you can tell your wife/mother/sweetheart.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from John Mitchell

The last QL Report from Curry painted a bleak picture of the QL's future. It was a resignation and abandonment of support of the few users that continue to rely on outside supporters.

There seems to be only one source of expertise anent the QL in the Northeast and that is Tom Bent in Maryland, which I think is above the Mason Dixon line, making him a Northeasterner.

Now the former pillar of support for the QL, Curry Computer, is undermining the foundations of the admittedly small QL Users Groups with blandishments about another English built - IBM Compatible computer.

Curry, in their latest letter, attempts to seduce QLers to abandon their slowly upgraded systems comparing the price of an integrated combination of computers and peripherals of the make they are selling with what the inferior upgraded system originally cost.

And all one would get would be an IBM clone which is liable to be obsolete with the imminence of the OS/2 operating system.

Although I thought that the ZX/Timex models were the MOST, I should have been forewarned by Timex's defection to expect the same from Sinclair or any successor with respect to the QL.

However, I was hooked, but one of the smartest things I ever did was to buy an American computer in addition to the QL. By so doing I can make comparisons.

My experience with the English built QL has shown me that:

1. Overseas support of the hardware dealer is almost nonexistant if parts had to comply with F.C.C. regulations and/or parts were deficient in what they were supposed to do. A wait of six months or more for a replacement part from Britain is not unusual. (I was fortunate in having another computer.)

2. To obtain British made components that conform to US regulations, one must cannibalize a spare computer or wait the long period for the replacement part from the manufacturer, after the order passes through a multiplicity of dealers who sometimes lose the details of the problem.

3. Likewise, the same complaint applies to peripheral equipment. A disk drive I bought failed to function properly and it was necessary to have an operations controller customized, which took eight months to accomplish.

4. A similar thing happened with a plug-in emulator ROM which would not operate when received. It was sent back with explicit descriptions and examples of the problems. After beaucooup telephone tracing which went as far as one of the Germanys, I finally received, a year later, a replacement that only emulates European machine formats and is useless to me.

The Psion software, with which my use of U.S. products allows me to make comparisons, shows definite inferiority to products produced here as long ago as 1982 and that are quite inferior to their own more recent replacements.

Furthermore, British English is difficult to understand here, because of the foreign words and their syntax. Also the examples are unclear and leave much to be desired. If they used American interpreters, maybe their instructions would be more lucid and even the British users would have less to complain about.

I have TOOLKIT II and there are lots of things that I could do

with it, if I could understand how to use it. I have come to the conclusion that it is one of the sophisticated programs that you go to school to learn how to use. But then I am an old dog - and you know what they say about old dogs.

As you can see, I am prejudiced but with reason. If I have to buy another system, I only want the computer and keyboard so that I can use the perfectly good peripherals that I have now and I don't plan to buy a system that will depend on overseas support. There are plenty of systems available here that are or will be compatible with "Big Blue's.

Editor's note: John's letter is a fair comment on the frustration that many owners of Sinclair products have expressed less politely over the years.

In fairness let us consider that Sinclair's great contributions to the computer age and to us are:

1) the products always delivered more than the competition (at the time) at a lower price, and

2) the computers have always offered greater access to the microprocessor than any of the competition.

Such computers are not for everyone.

When low price is a hallmark of the computer, something has to give. No Sinclair owner would pay $495.00 for software, however good. But if you pay $495.00 for IBM software you buy 800 numbers and exhaustive manuals.

If you think Sinclair software manuals are obtuse, wait until you begin exploring IBM manuals.

Finally, why do you suppose that the IBM user group is so large? They have their problems, too, and as a user group we exist to help each other.

EQUIVALENCY TABLES

The following was found by John Mitchell on a Kaypro User Group disk. Earl Rogers, president of Precision Monolithics was the original contributer. We hope that you find it as helpful as we did.

10^{12}	Microphones	= 1 megaphone
10^{12}	Pins	= 1 terrapin
10^{-12}	Boulevards	= 1 Pico Boulevard *
10^{21}	Piccolos	= 1 Gigalo
10	Rations	= 1 Decaration
10	Millipedes	= 1 Centipede
10	Centipedes/second	= 1 Velocopede
$3\ ^1/_2$	Tridents	= 1 Decadent
10^6	Bicycles	= 2 Megacycles
10^9	Micrometers	= 1 Kilometer = 200 Pentameters
10	Monolgues	= 1 Decalogue
$2x10^3$	Millenaries	= 4 Seminaries = 1 Binary **
$\$10^{-6}$		= 1 Millicent
1	Millihelen	= Amount of beauty to launch 1 ship

Footnotes:

* It helps if you have been to Los Angeles.

** The enlightenment generated by a seminary is measured in luminaries.

DRIVING A MONITOR

From the TS 1000 by Mark Fisher

Originally printed in the April, 1985 CATS N/L

A "golden oldie" from the CATS Archives. This is being reprinted in response to a question from last month's "Ask Nanny Show".--Editor

The T/S 1000 was designed to produce useable results on a standard TV. Its display was limited to 32 character lines, partly to ensure that the letters were still legible. They are larger, but if you spend a lot of time in front of the set, the blurriness of the standard TV screen can be wearing. The fault lies in the circuits of the reciever. A standard TV is designed to create a pleasing image from 6 feet - while at 18 inches, the features are often blurred.

A monitor, on the other hand, has been designed to produce a crisp image up close. Unfortunately, the average monitor requires a different signal than a standard TV, and the 1000 does not offer a suitable output. Like many other things with this machine, this can be changed! The correct signal is present, but is too weak to drive a monitor. The mod involves making three solder connections within the machine, to add a one transistor amplifer for the signal.

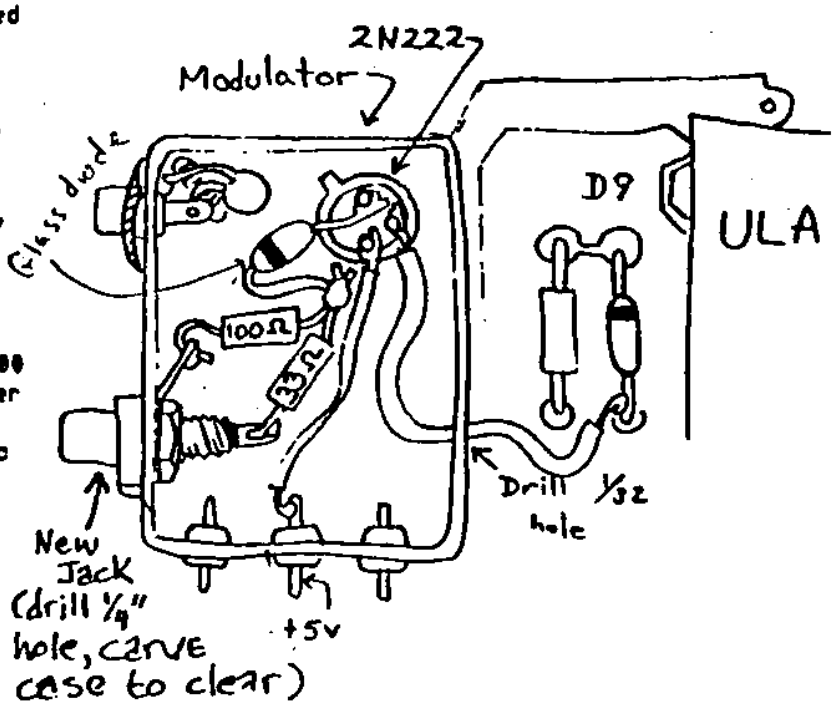
The Mod...

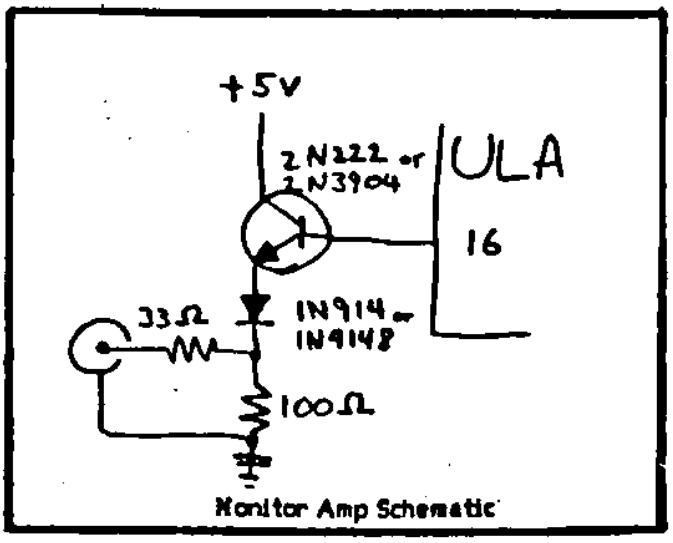
Materials required are:

2N222 Transistor (Radio Shack sells these, but theirs are of variable quality. A Motorola version will have a higher gain and a crisper output than the average Radio Shack specimen.)
33 Ω, 1/4 watt resistor
100 Ω, 1/4 watt resistor
IN914 glass diode. Don't worry about the precise part number - all those little fellers are about the same.
A panel mount RCA Jack (ex. Radio Shack 274-346)

The circuit can be put almost anywhere. There is room to fit it inside the modulator without affecting its operation, thus leaving an uncluttered machine, & the option of either TV or monitor output. It involves drilling holes very near to some resistors in the modulator, but I think that the results are worth it.

To install the circuit, first remove the ULA and 2K8 chips, and store them in aluminum foil (to protect against static electricity). Next, carefully drill the 1/4" hole for the jack, and the 1/16 hole for the signal line. Solder up the assembly outside the case, and install it, being careful not to leave any solder where it shouldn't be. Carve the case to fit the new jack, insert the chips, and enjoy!





Monitor Amp Schematic

CATS 9 AUGUST

ANOTHER LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from Charles Chrestien

I came by my Timex Sinclair 1000 gear last summer at a flea market and I have since added a small TV for a screen. I am trying to figure out, when I get the time, how to cable the stuff together.

Other hardware that I would like to see is a floppy disk outboard drive, 2) programs on PROM chips instead of tape, 3) Modem, 4) Ram Disk memory and/or EPROM plug-in cartridge for saving work, 5) an 80 column printer driver on a separate port so that either printer could be used 6) a power cord or supply so the unit could be operated from a car battery.

Being a total neophyte to the Timex and the writing of programs in general, I find that most of what I read in computer newsletters lessons in some unknown tongue, cemented together with an occassional English word or two. I had hoped that mention would be made of help or other assistance available to such as I, but it seems assumed that new members are as expert as the "old guard".

You see I am one that feels that operating systems should be transparent. So that like a car, once one finds the key hole all other operations are available.

736 San Jule Ct. #C
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Editor's reply: Charles' letter included more than can reasonably be replied to here. Clearly it is difficult to provide copious assistance across a continent to a newcomer to Sinclair computing. But let's try.

Out of the box the TS/1000 has 2K of Ram. Memory expansion in 16K increments is available, but there are limits to how much user-friendliness can be programmed in 2 K.

All of what you want to do is possible with the exception of plug-in PROMs and EPROMs (as on the Z88). (That technology is unique to the Z88.) Ram disking is not very satisfactory, since every byte allocated to RAM disk is lost to memory otherwise, and it is lost when powering down.

At least three different floppy disk controllers that address Shugart compatible drives are around, although I don't know of any still in production. Also the Byte Back 300 baud modem is been available, but again you must hunt for them.

Virtually all accessories that attach to the port come with thru ports. Thus the interface to attach an 80 column printer has a thru-port to hold the TS/2040 printer interface.

A plug-in-to-the-lighter variable voltage adapter from Radio Shack will make you mobile.

Several articles in this newsletter list sources of software. The BCS does not have a PD software library for the Timex Sinclair 1000.

We recommend that you subscribe to Time Designs Magazine for help and ads of retail products. The May/June, 1988, issue lists virtually all user groups in North America ($3.00) and their commitment to PD software. Write Tim Woods, 29722 Hult Rd., Colton, OR 97017. Computer Shopper has TS stuff, too.

Also contact Bill Miller, 6675 Clifford Dr, Cupertino, CA 95014. (408) 253-3175 for introductions to user groups in the Bay Area.

Be warned. The TS/1000 is not a Mackintosh or even an IBM. There are limitations and the keyboard is only one of them. But the instruction manual that comes with the computer will teach you far more about working a computer than any other single source.

ARCHIVE CHARACTER CODES

by Peter Hale

Few who use Psion's Archive realize that it redefines many of the codes in the character set.

The following Archive control codes differ from those used in SuperBASIC. Some do unexpected things; some do ordinary things in different ways.

Dec Code	Archive Key press	SBasic Key Press	Error Code
0	CRTL £	CTRL £	
1	???	CTRL A	92
2	UP ARROW	CTRL B	92
3	DOWN ARROW	CTRL C	92
4	RIGHT ARROW	CTRL D	92
5	LEFT ARROW	CTRL E	
6	^UP ARROW	CTRL F	
6	ALT^LT ARR	CTRL F	
7	^DOWN ARROW	CTRL G	92
7	ALT^RGT ARR	CTRL G	92
8	^RGHT ARROW	CTRL H	
9	^LEFT ARROW	CTRL I	92
9	^LEFT ARROW	TAB	92
10	SHFT UP ARR	CTRL J	
10	SHFT UP ARR	ENTER	
11	SHFT DN ARR	CTRL K	
12	SHFT RT ARR	CTRL L	
13	SHFT LT ARR	CTRL M	
14	^SHFT RT AR	CTRL N	
15	^SHFT LT AR	CTRL O	
16	ALT RGT ARR	CTRL P	92
17	ALT LFT ARR	CTRL Q	92
18	F1	CTRL R	92
19	F2	CTRL S	
20	F3	CTRL T	92
21	F4	CTRL U	92
22	F5	CTRL V	92
23	SHIFT F1	CTRL W	92
24	SHIFT F2	CTRL X	92
25	SHIFT F3	CTRL Y	92
26	SHIFT F4	CTRL Z	
27	ESC	ESC	92
27	CTRL SHFT I	^SHIFT I	92
28	SHIFT TAB	^SHIFT \	
29	TAB or ^I	^SHIFT]	92
30	ENTER or ^J	^SHIFT £	
31	SHIFT F5	^SHIFT ESC	92

Error code 92 in Archive is 'missing I/O parameter'. It is returned when you try to print the chr to the screen.

Character codes 6, 7, 9, 10, 27 and 30 may be accessed by more than one keypress.

Character 5 (left arrow) underlines the print statement that follows until there is another chr(5) or a line feed. Similarly, chr(26) inverts the current paper/ink combination. It is terminated by another chr(26) or a new paper or ink selection.

Chr(6) is equivalent to ! in SuperBASIC - it generates an extra space; chr(8), Back Space, sends the next printed character to overwrite the last printed character; chr(10) is like \ in SuperBASIC, Line Feed; chr(12) is Form Feed; and chr(13) is still Carriage Return. I didn't figure out the others.

These character codes can be implemented in Archive programs by including them in print statements. For example:

```
print chr(5);"HI";chr(5);" HI"
```

underlines only the first "HI".

The following procedure demonstrates the effect of different codes in the ARCHIVE character set.

```
proc test_code
  let n=1
  while n<32
    print tab n;n;chr(n);" HELLO"
    let n=n+1
    endwhile
```

Each time you get an error 92, edit the procedure to let n equal the next greater number than the value at which the error message was reported so you can continue.

You may also want to try this procedure:

```
proc test_key
  let n=code(getkey())
  print n
  test_key
```

Press a key combination to verify the table above. You will find

that F1 (and sometimes F2) will return 31, which should be SHIFT F5. This is because both F1 and F2 include the code for SHIFT F5.

This procedure is recursive, it will continue to call itself indefinitely. Get out by holding the <ESC> key.

Try printing characters 225 to 235 (to the screen). Modify the procedure test_code above to let n=225 and have the while loop terminate at 235 or above. There are some interesting symbols no one has told you about.

Knowledge of these undocumented codes can make ARCHIVE programs much more interesting than you once thought.

NOTES FROM A TRAVELLER

Our friend recently returned from Minneapolis where he renewed ties with an old friend of his.

Friend's friend works at Cray and had helped develop what is said to be the world's fastest super computer, the Cray model Y-MP.

After securing the visitor's badge, they wandered around the work benches and what not to friend's friend's lair.

There was a pile of circuits arranged like a Dagwood sandwich. It looked suspiciously like a dozen QL motherboards in a rack.

Indeed, reported friend, it was what it appeared to be. Friend's friend revealed that in the early days of work on the model Y-MP it was necessary to emulate some parallel processing concepts.

To do it, a dozen Sinclair QL's were networked with some custom hardware peripherals. Swears friend's friend, the mini-Cray was baptised the Cray model Z-2B.

CATS CAPITOLFEST

On the following two pages we are reproducing part of the promotional material advertising the CATS CapitolFest to be held in the Washington D.C. area on the Weekend of May 6 and 7.

This will be the premiere 1989 Sinclair Fest and the first one held within easy distance for us in several years. It is sponsored by one of the oldest and most active Sinclair User Groups in North America, the Capitol Area Timex Sinclair User Group.

Talks, swaps flea markets, new and old software. This is a time to rekindle your enthusiasm, take the family to Washington or just have a great weekend.

A contingent from Boston will attend and share rides to arrive in time for the Banquet ($16.50) on Friday, May 5.

The Fest will be at the Howard Johnsons in New Carrollton, MD. It's just off Exit 20B on I-95 and 1/4 mile from the New Carrolton Amtrak/Metro station (free bus from the Hotel). (A $5.00 Visitor Metro pass is good for four people all day, everywhere.)

Rooms are $62.00 a night (not per person) and the first fifty to register, get a free pass to the Fest (one per room).

There is a dedicated bulletin board at (301) 588-0579 with all the latest information or you can contact Audrey Curnutt at (301) 439-8756 for voice information and telephone registration.

To register for a room contact either call Audrey direct or the Howard Johnsons itself at (301) 459-6700. Do not use HoJo's toll free number. They will tell you the hotel is booked solid.

For local information and to reserve ride space contact Peter Hale at (617) 889-0830.

THE BIGGEST T/S PARTY OF THE DECADE

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ZX 80 & Ace	ZX 81	T/S 1000
PC 8300	TS 1500	TS 2068
QL	Z 88	-Z 89?

Psion Organizer * Sinclair PC * Amstrad

Projected Program:

Friday:

Program Registration
Hotel Registration
Limited seating banquet

Saturday:

8:00 AM Set Up tables
9:00 Swap Shop Intake
9:00 - 5:00 Open Floor
10:00 - 5:00 Speakers
10:00 - 8:00 Videos
7:00 PM - 10:00 Round Table Discussion
7:00 PM --> Hospitality Suite

Sunday:

9:00 - 3:00 Open Floor
10:00 - 12:00 Speakers
10:00 - 12:00 Videos of Saturday's Presentations
3:00 - 5:00 Wrapup/Cleanup

CATS Capitol Fest
PO Box 24
Garrett Park, MD
Contact: Audrey Curnutt
(301) 439-8756

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If you can't make it, you can help sponsor our final promotional flyers and/or the Show Program

THE STRANGE ONE

by Charles Musselman

This little quicky for the QL plots an interesting design.

```
50 s=2E-2: n=50: CLS
100 REMark this experiment does black window
110 OPEN #5,scr_350x200a130x00: PAPER#5,0
120 CLS#5
130 SCALE#5, 4,-2,0
150 CIRCLE#5,-1.9,.2,5E-2;1.8,.2,5E-2;1.8,3.9,5E-2;-1.9,3.9,5E-2
200 FOR c=.2 TO 2 STEP s
210 x=-.5: FOR i=1 TO n: x=c-(x*x): NEXT i
220 FOR i=1 TO 100: x=c-x*x: POINT#5, x,2*c: NEXT i
240 NEXT c
250 END FOR i
260 :
270 DEFine PROCedure sav
280 DELETE mdv1_strange1: SAVE mdv1_strange1
290 END DEFine sav
```

Sign Up Sheet

Send to:

CATS CapitolFest
PO Box 24
Garrett Park MD 2Ø896

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

State _____

I'm interested in:

Number	Cost	Total	
	● $25.00		Tables (Includes 2 Vendor's passes)
	● $62.00		Preregistration (First 50 rooms reserved will get FREE passes to the FEST)
	● $16.50		Reserved seats for the banquet
	● $10.00		Ad in Promo Flyer
	● $10.00		Ad in Program
	● $ 5.00		MetroRail Tourist Passes

Total Check enclosed:==========

QLAND_LORD

A Review By Roy Arsenault

VERSION REVIEWED: V. 1.0

REQUIREMENTS: 256K RAM and Archive V. 2.0 or later

SOFTWARE PUBLISHER: EMSOFT DIV., ESTATE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, P.O. Box 8763, Boston, MA 02114-8763, (617) 889-0830

OVERALL PERFORMANCE: Excellent

DOCUMENTATION: Very good

ERROR HANDLING: Very good

EASE OF USE: Excellent

SUPPORT: Very good (phone support 9AM-6PM Eastern)

PRICE: $19.95 5 1/4 Disk or $21.95 Micro Cartridge

I obtained a copy of QLAND_LORD because of my interest in Financial and Data Base software. QLAND_LORD as the name implies is designed to aid in the management of real estate. It provides complete detailed record keeping for all financial transactions, prints rent receipts, provides quarterly reporting and prepares the data required for IRS Schedule E tax reporting. A future release will provide for check printing.

The software is easy to use and menu driven. I had to refer to the manual only once during my initial usage. Some other features are:

* Manages up to 99 units in a single file.

* Records can be ordered by unit, date, or type of transaction.

* Security and key deposits are maintained seperately from cash flow.

* Procedures for opening and closing the books for varying reporting periods are supported.

* The program code is unprotected for easy editing and enhancing.

QLAND_LORD represents an excellent value and is at least two cuts above the boring blue world.

MULTI-TASKING MS-DOS

A hardy breed, Sinclair QL owners long ago learned to weather the pitying stares of friends, colleagues, computer sales clerks and other assorted ignorami.

"Sinclair, Oh, didn't he die?" "I heard he built a new computer but it didn't work." "Why, don't you get a computer that can use real software?" "QDOS? I don't know anything about it."

Protestations of multi-tasking ability and speed aside, most QL owners retreat to quiet corners and munch on stale popcorn in any gathering of IBM/clone users. Then they go home with a certain feeling of loneliness.

Now you can be the first kid on the block to really give it to those nerds that are messing around in MS-DOS land - and for only $149.95 plus s+h.

Imagine telling those nerds that for only $149.95 you can now multi-task MS-DOS software and for $80.00 more sport MS-DOS 4.0 which hasn't even been advertised yet by Microsoft.

Digital Precision has released the SOLUTION, an MS-DOS emulator that runs on the QL. Whether this is a step up or a step down, I leave to you to decide.

SOLUTION is a software emulator of IBM PC and MS-DOS in 100% machine code. It supports full CGA-standard Multi-color graphics and text emulation AND IS INHERENTLY MULTI-TASKING!!!!

BIOS is rewritten in unbelievably efficient, highly linearised, optimal 68000 code. Speed is very much greater than one would expect and approaches that of a compiler (not an interpreter) and clearly outperforms the Atari ST emulator. At 1 MHz clock it is more than adequate for anything other than interactive games (and what games on a PC are worth anything anyway?)

The SOLUTION auto-boots. That's all there is to it! Devices are user configurable. Two IBM character sets are available. You can read/write/format PC/MS-DOS disks and even transfer files from QDOS to MS-DOS and vice versa.

Not only can you multi-task MS-DOS, you can have both MS-DOS and QDOS at the same time. Imagine moving between D-Base and Quill or playing Blocklands while working on a Lotus 123 spreadsheet.

With the Trumpcard, a massive 667K is available to MS-DOS. This is more than is available on a maximally expanded IBM. (With a 512K expansion 420K is available.)

The only limitation is software that makes hardware specific calls (a no-no in any case and pretty much restricted to game software) or requires lockboxes for protection.

The nerds will turn green with envy. And want to get their own. They will have to buy an expanded QL with disc drives. You only have to contact Mark at Sharps, Box 326, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 (804) 730-9697.

STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE...

by Ed Kingsley

I'd like to formally thank our Editor for his countless contributions to this organization and it's newsletter and acknowledge his subtle proddings for more articles.

All of us who regularly use a QL almost certainly have a personal insight or have uncovered a 'trick' or two which we could pass on, but assume that "if we know it", it must be common knowledge.

So, with Peter's permission, I'd like to inaugurate this column to try and encourage you to share your tips with the rest of us who quite probably "don't know it". I'll begin with three of my own.

1) I experienced periodic keyboard lock-ups and 'White Display Screens' for several weeks after setting up my RGB Monitor until I found and resoldered a loose coaxial ground connection inside the metal shell at the monitor end of the RGB cable.

2) If you haven't got TOOLKIT II (you should!) the quickest way to EDIT a Superbasic Line is to type in a number - lower than the one you wish to edit, but higher than the preceeding Line - and press the Down Arrow Key, i.e., suppose your program is numbered by 10's and you want to EDIT Line 40. Now, instead of typing the usual E D I T 4 0 <ENTER>, (for 7 key presses), you type in a number between 31 and 39 and press the Down Arrow Key (for only 3 key presses).

You can also use a higher number and the Up Arrow Key as well.

In either case never use an existing Line Number because the Up and Down Arrow Keys will behave like the <ENTER> Key and delete the line.

Once you have a Line in the EDIT Window, it can be safely returned to the Listing with an Up or Down Arrow Key. However, it will not simply be re-entered, but will instead be 'exchanged' for the next higher (or lower) Line which may itself then be EDITed or 'scrolled along' in the same way. <ENTER>ing the EDITed Line will end this exchange procedure.

This will also work with TK-II in ED Mode and may occasionally be faster than scrolling to the bottom of a screen.

3) If you have TOOLKIT II, you might like to add the following to your list of ALTKEY's. (See Peter Hale's tutorial in the Sep/Oct '88 Newsletter.)

```
100  LET d$=Date$
200  ALTKEY 'd', d$(5 to 9) &
     d$(10 to 12) & ', ' &
     d$(1 to 4) & CHR$(196) &
     CHR$(196) & CHR$(192)
```

..Note that the comma between the single quotes is followed by a space. Run this.

If you have previously set the internal clock, you can press ALT and d together and you will print the Current Date (in the form Apr 23, 1989) at the cursor position (in the Psion Programs). The cursor will be positioned at the end of the abbreviated month for you to complete the spelling.

If you're not using ALTKEY's yet, give them a try. They're a big part of what the joy of computing is supposed to be all about.

I hope that I'm right and one of these tips is new to you and helpful. If not, how about sending some of yours to Peter and teach me something?

Editor's note: Thank you Ed. I learned the full potential of the ALTKEY date setting routine by incorporating the Shift Left and Left cursor codes to make it easier to spell the month.

SUPPORT FOR THE TS 1000 AND THE TS 2068

by Al Boehm

The March issue of the Computer Shopper, the last source of monthly support for Sinclair computers, reported several strategies for continuing support of our computers.

In his column Michael O'Brien reported two very positive moves afoot and mention of a good BBS.

The first is that Bill Ferrebee of Lemke Software has begun lobbying Alan Sugar of Amstrad.

As we all should know, Alan got a whole batch of stuff when he bought Sinclair Research from Sir Clive several years ago, and it included the Spectrum computer.

Lots of new software is being produced for the Spectrum, but since Curry had to stop importing it, there are no distributers in North America.

Alan has a big marketing and support outfit for Amstrad here. Why not use it for Spectrum stuff too?

Bill suggests getting up petitions from your user group asking for Spectrum software to be distributed in North America.

Also write a brief note directly to Alan Sugar.

Then send all those letters and petitions to Bill Ferrebee at Mountaineer Software, 749 Hill Street #6, Parkersburg, WV 26104. He will forward it all *en masse* to the appropriate parties.

Also in the same article was mention that the O.E.C. BBS has a number of software titles for Timex that you can down load with your modem. The number is (614) 423-7879. Select the files area and specifically the (D) section of software libraries. There is an excellent range of TS software including:

TSFD1.BAS	Sound Effects
TSFD6.BAS	Assembler
TSFD7.BAS	Disassembler
TSFD8.BAS	Copycat
TSFD11.BAS	Phone Directory
TSFD13.BAS	Headscan

The BBS is 24 hours 300/1200 Baud 7/1/E or 8/1/N.

Another source for free (or near free) Timex software for the TS/1000, TS/1500 and TS/2068 is the Sinclair Public Domain Library run by Tim Ward and his assistant Tony Willling.

The library currently has five 60 minute tapes for the TS/1000. There is a nominal fee of $4.00 per tape, and contributions in excess are gratefully accepted. A TS2068 tape is coming out soon.

Tim is at 5142-D Ginko Drive SW, Tacoma, WA 98439 (206) 584-0339.

MORE ON SUPPORT

by Peter Hale

There has been considerable gratuitous bitching in this user group about the lack of support for many members. Some is justified, but frankly, I have forgotten almost all I ever knew about the ZX-81 & TS/1000 and I never used a TS/2068 and those that know something have rarely contributed themselves.

I apologize to those that feel left out, but I want to take a minute to express my gratitude to Jim Rodlin, Al Boehm, Mike Mitchell, John Mitchell, Mike Padlipski, Ernie Wider and Ed Kingsley. Each of you have in various ways made my task a lot easier. I have learned from you and been moved in many ways by the ways you have reached out to me. Thank you all.

S . N . U . G .
Sinclair Northamerica Users Group
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This is a short update to let all of you know what has happened since last you heard from from us. Since our last Press Release we have received fifty eight individual memberships, and an additional fifteen memberships from Users Groups (which represents approximately twenty seven per cent of the known users groups in the North American continent). We have also received memberships from Australia and Great Britain. We would be extreamly pleased if we could establish groups to expand to outside the continent!

So what have we been doing all this time ? Plenty!! Firstly, we drafted a charter that was designed to allow for most provisions including expansion. This was a very time consuming task. The Charter has been sent to the Florida State Secretary of State and was approved on December 27, 1988. All funds up to now have been held and were deposited into a checking account on December 31, 1988.

We have with the help of the Library Committee established a format to work the Public Domain Software Library. We currently have set up Librarians for the following machines and formats:

Head Librarian...Frank Davis
Assistant Head Librarian...Tim Ward

ZX-81, TS-1000, TS-1500...
Cassette, Larken DOS - Tim Ward, Tony Willing

Spectrum, TS-2068...
Cassette - Frank Davis
A&J Microdrive, Wafadrive - Frank Davis, Andy Hradesky
Aerco - "Phoenix" Pete Fischer
Larken - To Be Announced
Oliger DOS - Paul Holmgren, Willie Jones, Gary Lessenberry
Portugal Timex, Zebra - To Be Announced
C/PM - Tim Stoddard
Ramex SPDOS - To Be Announced

Quantum Leap (QL)...
Microdrive, Floppy Disc - Tim Stoddard

Cambridge Z-88...
Software, Eprom - To Be Announced

We are currently assessing what programs qualify for Public Domain and we are gathering programs at this time. We cannot give an accurate number of programs available, but we have conservatively estimated to have on hand approximately 850 Spectrum and 2068 programs and 240 ZX - 81 and 1000 programs as of January 1, 1989. We have been advised that several Commercial programs have been released into the Public Domain. Once all the

details are arranged, an announcement will be made.

We have also been trying to put together a Publication committee to determine how our Magazine will look and its contents. Several of our respondents expressed interest in writing articles, so we should have several first time writers with some new applications.

Included is the Official Membership Listing. All members on the list are Charter Members, and as such are eligible for becoming officers. All Users Groups that are members need to select a contact person. That person will act as directed by their membership to vote accordingly. All Users groups have only one vote.

We are requesting that the membership respond with the names of three individuals for each of the offices listed. The deadline for nominations is February 25, 1989. The responses will be tabulated and official Ballots will be mailed on February 27, 1989. The deadline for return of the Ballots is March 25, 1989. The results of the elections will be announced on March 27, 1989. For your information, Mary - Lynn Johnson has remarried, and requested to not be considered for office as she wishes to spend more time with her new family. We wish her all the best in future.

The current officers are:

Mel Nathanson... Acting Chairperson, Pro-tem.
Paul Holmgren... Acting Vice-Chairperson, Pro-tem.
John "JC" Cushran... Acting Treasurer, Pro-Tem

The offices that will voted on consist of:

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

There is something special about a person willing to take a chance on an idea that has nothing immediately tangible to be had for their hard earned money. It takes a person with vision, courage, and some money that they don't need right away! Ideas with as much scope as the one we're attempting are difficult enough to pull off without individuals such as the Charter Members and without your help, I really don't think this much could have been accomplished. Be proud - there are not many of you out there. We thank you.

We hope that this announcement has proved that we have been working towards the goals outlined. With the increased voluntary help that we anticipate the organization will thrive and grow.

Mel Nathanson

AN IMPROVED LABEL MAKER FOR LARKEN SYSTEM

by G. Chambers

Writing programs to create labels is a time honoured pastime among the computer crowd. But I think this program offers just a bit more.

It is designed to produce labels of the contents of your Larken system disks. It offers the option of printing to the 2040 printer or a large printer. It provides the option of sorting the files alphabetically. It also provides the option of printing the program names in one, two or three columns.

Although the program makes use of the Hacksel printer software "lprint.C1", another driver software could be used by modifying lines 160 and 350.

The program operates on the basis of reading the irectory (Track 0), placing the names in a (d$) array, then manipulating them as required.

```
100 REM File Label Maker v1.1
        for the LARKEN system

110    REM    By G. Chambers
              14 Richome Court
              Scarborough, Ont.
              CANADA  M1K 2Y1

120 REM  Use to make a printout
              of disk files
130 REM Data statements contain
           Drive Control Code.

140 REM For use with the DSK400
     system of 5090 bytes/track
 using a DD drive i.e.80 tracks

 150 RANDOMIZE USR 100: OPEN #4,
"dd"
 160 PRINT #4: LOAD "lprint.C1"C
ODE
 170 LET c$="
 180 RESTORE VAL "210"
 190 FOR n=VAL "63000" TO VAL "6
3047"
 200 READ a: POKE n,a
 210 NEXT n
 220 DATA 195,43,246,0,0,0,0,0,0
,243,205,98,0,201,58
 230 DATA 100,0,251,201,205,33,2
46,58,176,92,50,29,32,205,126
 240 DATA 0,205,123,0,33,112,32,
17,156,224,1,0,20,237,176
 250 DATA 195,38,246
 260 DIM d$(90,11)
 270 LET trac=VAL "23728": LET l
oadbuf=VAL "63000"
 280 LET name=VAL "57688"
 290 BORDER PI/PI: PAPER PI/PI:
CLS
 300 PRINT AT VAL "2",VAL "6"; I
NK VAL "2"; PAPER VAL "6";" LARK
EN DISK UTILITY "; PAPER PI/PI;
,TAB VAL "10"; PAPER VAL "6";" L
abel-Maker "; PAPER VAL "1",,TAB
 VAL "6"; PAPER VAL "6";" By  Ge
orge Chambers "
 310 INK VAL "3"; PLOT NOT PI,VA
L "108"; DRAW NOT PI,VAL "62"; D
RAW VAL "255",NOT PI; DRAW NOT P
I,VAL "-62"; DRAW VAL "-255",NOT
 PI
 320 INK VAL "6"; PLOT VAL "8",V
AL "114"; DRAW NOT PI,VAL "50";
DRAW VAL "238",NOT PI; DRAW NOT
PI,VAL "-50"; DRAW VAL "-238",NO
T PI; INK VAL "7"
 330 PRINT '''''"Install disk ne
eding a label""   ... then Pres
s a key"; PAUSE NOT PI
 340 POKE 23658,0: PRINT AT 12,0
; OVER 0;c$;c$;AT 14,0; INK 7;"L
arge or small printer? (L/S) ";
 PAUSE 0
 350 LET n$=INKEY$: POKE 26703,0
: POKE 26704,5: IF n$="l" THEN
POKE 26704,254
 360 PRINT AT 14,0; OVER 0;c$; P
AUSE 50; PRINT AT 16,0;"Print Nu
mber of columns (1-3) "; PAUSE
0; LET p=CODE INKEY$-48
 370 PRINT AT 16,0; OVER 0;c$; P
AUSE 50
 380 INPUT "Sort (Y/N)? ";s$
 390 INPUT "Enter Disk Title";n$

 400 LPRINT
 410 REM    Picking pgm names
          from buffer(Track 0)
 420 POKE trac,NOT PI: RANDOMIZE
USR loadbuf
 430 LPRINT "Disk Name: ";n$: LP
RINT
 440 FOR n= PI/PI TO VAL "90"
```

```
 450 IF PEEK (name+j)=NOT PI THE
N  LET e=n-1: LET n=VAL "90": GO
 TO VAL "520"
 460 IF PEEK (name+PI/PI)=VAL "2
54" THEN  LET name=name+VAL "34"
: GO TO VAL "490"
 470 FOR m=PI/PI TO VAL "9"
 480 LET d$(n,m)=CHR$ PEEK (name
+m)
 490 NEXT m
 500 LET name=name+VAL "34"
 510 PRINT AT 11,11;d$(n);"     "

 520 NEXT N
 530 IF s$<>"y" THEN  GO TO 590
 540 PRINT AT 11,11; FLASH 1;" S
orting "; FLASH 0
 550 FOR i=1 TO (e-1): FOR j=i T
O e
 560 IF d$(i)>d$(j) THEN  GO SUB
 580
 570 NEXT j: NEXT i: GO TO 590
 580 LET q$=d$(j): LET d$(j)=d$(
i): LET d$(i)=q$: RETURN
 590 PRINT AT 11,11;"           "

 600 FOR n=1 TO e
 610 IF INT (n/p)=(n/p) THEN  LP
RINT d$(n, TO 10): GO TO 630
 620 LPRINT d$(n);
 630 NEXT n
 640 LPRINT : LPRINT : LPRINT
 650 DIM f$(VAL "9")
 660 PRINT AT VAL "20",VAL "6";"
Label finished""Press a key for
 another start"
 670 PAUSE NOT PI: GO TO VAL "28
0"
 680 STOP
8000 INK 0: PAPER 7: BORDER 7: C
LS : LIST : STOP
9900 REM ** Save to Disk **
9910 CLEAR : PRINT USR 100: SAVE
 "label2.B1" LINE 100
9930 STOP
```

From
September/October
Newsletter of the
Toronto Sinclair
Timex Users Group
SINC-LINK

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SOFTWARE NEWS

Sharp's, a dealer in QL software and hardware, recently sent out a new catalogue. Virtually anyone who ever bought a QL from A+ or Sinclair received a copy of it.

It is a handsome presentation with not only all the latest and best hardware and software for the QL, but also very good prices on the Sinclair MS-DOS machine and the Z-88. It is a source for Psion's PC Four, the IBM version of the Psion suite for the QL.

Sharp's also offers spare parts for the QL, particularly the 8301 chip, having bought all the rest of the A+ warehouse last summer.

If you did not get a copy, call or write Mark Stuber at Sharp's, Rt 10, Box 459, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 (804) 730-9697.

The Boston Computer Society

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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